Clatsop County Historical Society Quarterly

CUMTUX

Vol. 29, No. 4 — Fall 2009

CCHS image # 4720.565

Members of fire hose teams about to take part in a foot race, ca. 1887 near 15th and Commercial Streets in Astoria. Third from left is Pete Grant. At upper right is St. Mary's Hospital. More photos of the hospital are featured on pages 45-47.

In This Issue . . .

Twin sisters, Hazel Nordquist Riswick and Helen Nordquist Snow, wrote the story of their mother, Karoline (Lena) Bjork Nordquist Lofgren, an immigrant from Sweden who, though widowed early, through hard work and a lot of love raised a happy family of four children. Hal Snow, Lena's grandson, brought the story to CCHS. Lena's nephew, Axel Englund, is the subject of a story that follows written by his great granddaughter, Allie Englund for Dr. Julie Brown's Writing 123 class.

In the fall of 1918, soldiers returning from overseas in World War I brought a deadly influenza virus with them. The virus quickly spread throughout the population, killing half a million people in the U.S., two thousand in Oregon and over a hundred and fifty people in Clatsop County. A story about this "Spanish flu" epidemic of 1918 appeared in the Winter 1997 issue of *Cumtux*. Though the variety of the H1N1 influenza has not been as deadly as feared, we have been told that it may swing through the country again in a more virulent form. We have decided to reprint the story as a reminder of what this disease may still do.

The only hospital in the county at the time of the 1918 epidemic and for more than a decade afterward was St. Mary's Hospital. (This is not counting the Electro Medical Institute operated by C. C. C. Rosenberg.) Photos and a brief history of the hospital are included.

A donation of records from the Clatsop County Health Department included several photographs of school children that also appear in this issue.

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CUMTUX

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Front Cover:
Helen Nordquist Snow ca. 1928. courtesy of Hal Snow

CUMTUX: Chinook jargon: "To know…to inform"

OUR WONDERFUL MOTHER

Written in 1991 by the Twins,
Hazel Nordquist Riswick and Helen Nordquist Snow

Karoline (Lena) Bjork Nordquist Lofgren, our mother, was born August 12, 1882. She grew up in a large family on a farm in Sweden near the town of Sunne in the province of Varmland. At the age of 19, she and her brother, Emil Janisson Bjork, who was 22, decided to immigrate to America. With the hope of finding a good life in a new country, they sadly said goodbye to their beloved parents. They would never see their mother and father again. They left Sweden from the port of Gothenburg. At the end of the long voyage, they reached New York harbor, where the Statue of Liberty welcomed them as she had millions of immigrants before them. Their boat docked at Ellis Island where they were processed and cleared to enter the United States on April 18, 1902.

Mother and Uncle Emil traveled by train to Gladstone, Michigan where mother found work as a cook and maid for a wealthy family. Even though the family paid her only seven dollars a month, she managed to save. She worked seven days a week, except for Saturday afternoon when she had a few hours off. Several evenings a week, the two oldest children of the family, a brother and sister, helped mother learn to speak, read and write English as the three of them sat at a table in the kitchen. Mother greatly respected education, and she always encouraged us to learn.

Uncle Emil met his future wife, Sophie Lamberg, while he lived in Gladstone, but they did not marry until later in Astoria, Oregon.

After about a year in Gladstone, mother and Emil moved to Missoula, Montana, where work was more plentiful and new immigrants received better pay. In Missoula, mother met Albin Theodore Nordquist, who also had emigrated from Sweden, and they were married there.

Our parents moved to Wallace, Idaho, where father had two brothers already working at the silver mines in that area. One of his brothers attended Valparaiso College and earned a degree in civil engineering. After graduation, the brother became the surveyor for the road system in northwestern Idaho. Later, two of mother's brothers, Emil and Louie,

Image courtesy of the Snow Family

Karoline (Lena) Bjork Nordquist and Albin Theodore Nordquist

Some Descendants of
Jan Nilsson Bjork (1847-1944) and Kaisa Olsdotter (1847-1903)

1) Nils Janson-Bjork-Englund (1875-1917) married Emma Olsdotter
   a) Nils (born 1900-died ?)
   b) Olaf (1901-)
   c) Axel (1908-1980) married Freda V. Johnson in 1934
      son Jon & daughter Suzanne (Englund Marine Supply)
   d) Agnes (1910-) married Fridtjof Fremstad in 1937
2) Matilda Jansson-Bjork (1877-) married Oskar Tillman (family remained in Sweden)
3) Olaf Janson-Bjork (1879-1930) married Hilda Warra in 1910
   a) Florence (1911-)
   b) John (1918-)
4) Emil Janson-Bjork (1880-1969) married (1) Sofia Lamberg (1884-1932) in 1906 (2) Nell Agee in 1937 (The E. J. Bjork family operated Owen-Peeke Co.)
   a) Wilbert (1907-) married Lila E.M. Perila in 1929
   b) Edwin (1908-) married Mildred McHugh in 1927
   c) Delbert (1914-) married Anne E. Pavola in 1938
   d) Gladys (1917-) married Frank Alto in 1938
   e) John (1921-) married Luella Nyman
   f) Doris (1924-) married Ward Paldanius in 1946 (AHS coach)
5) Karoline (Lena) Janson-Bjork (1882-1952) married (1) Albin T. Nordquist (1875-1916) (2) Emil Lofgren
   a) Ethel (1906-1996) married John Povey
      daughter Carol Povey Walker
   b) Hazel (1908-1998) married (1) Volner Stewart in 1928 (2) Albin H. Riswick
      daughter Carolyn Stewart Bills
   c) Helen (1908-2009) married Harold Snow in 1936
      son Harold A. Snow married Laura Jeanyse Reith
   d) Albin (1913-) married Mildred Matson
      son Daniel Nordquist
6) Anna Janson-Bjork (1884-1967) married Gust Rex
   a) Alice (1913-) married Hagg
   b) Herbert (1917-)
7) Lars (Louie) Janson-Bjork (1887-1944)

and her sister, Annie Bjork, came to Wallace and stayed with them. Annie and Louie had left Sweden after mother and Emil.

In Wallace, our parents had their first child, Ethel. Twenty months later, identical twin girls, Hazel and Helen, arrived. Nearly six years later, their only son, Albin, was born.

When our father contracted pleurisy, his doctor advised him to stop working in the silver mines. The family moved to Portland, Oregon, where our father became a policeman. The other policemen called our father "The Irish Swede" because he often sang the song "My Wild Irish Rose."

When we first arrived in Portland, we lived with our generous Aunt Annie and Uncle Gust Rex. Albin was still a baby in our mother's arms but Ethel, Hazel and Helen started grade school in Portland.

Our family left Portland and moved to Deep River, Washington, where father worked in a logging camp. We were happy living there, although our home was only a tent house owned by the lumber company. Ethel, Hazel, and Helen attended school in a one-room schoolhouse in Deep River.

Logging is dangerous work today, but it was more dangerous in the early 1900s before any safety standards were established. A logger had to be tough and brave. Two of our mother's brothers, Olaf Bjork and Nils Englund (Nils had changed his name from Bjork to Englund), were killed in logging accidents. Uncle Emil Bjork later lost the ends of several fingers while logging.

When one of father's hands became badly infected, he left his job as a logger, and our family moved to a dairy farm in Youngs River, Oregon. Unfortunately, father had never recovered from the damage that had been done to his lungs in the silver mines. He died of pleurisy at the farm [on March 28, 1916.] Hazel remembers seeing the mortician carrying a long wicker basket with our father's body in it across the field and down the hill near our house. Ethel was nine years old, the twins, Hazel and Helen, were eight, and Albin was two when our dear father passed on.

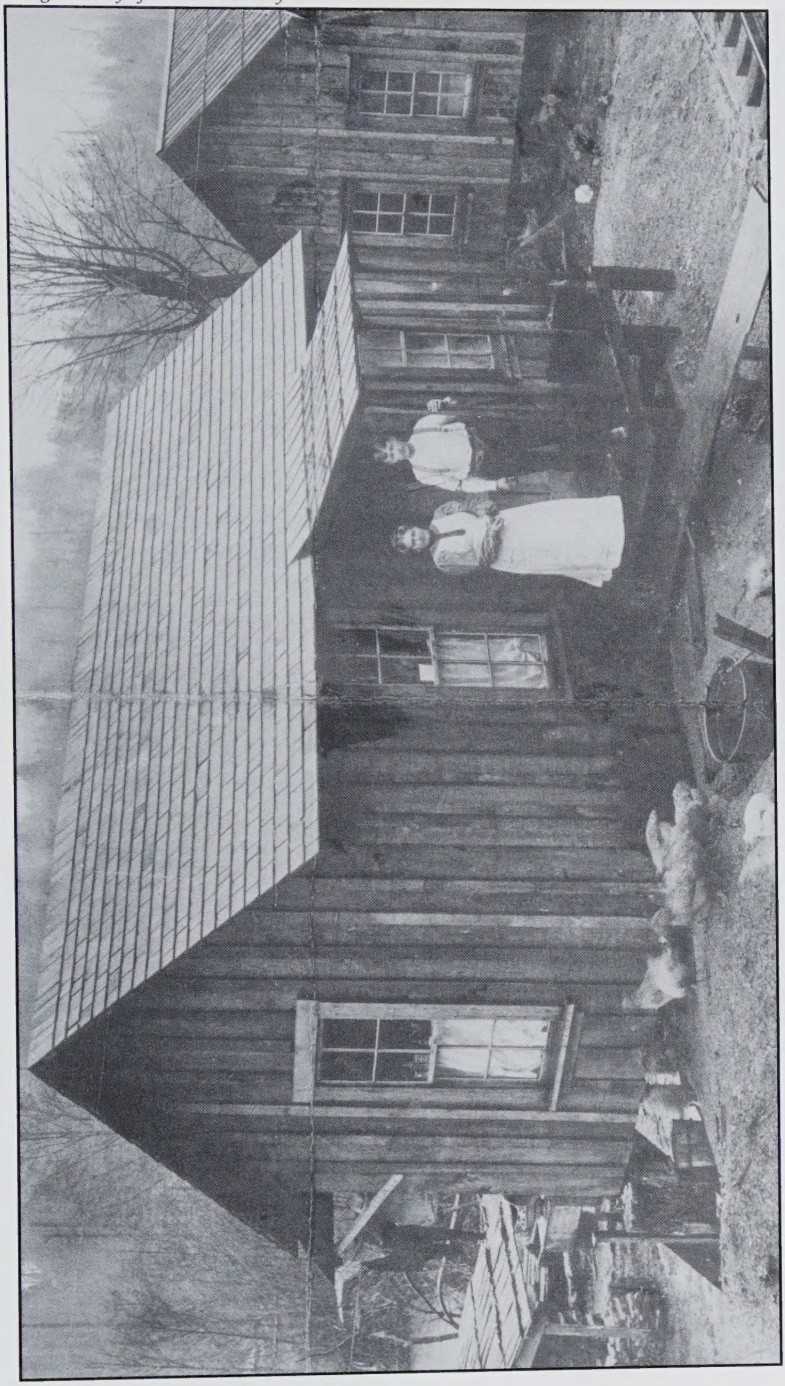
Our mother was shocked to lose Albin, her beloved husband, but she was brave and strong for the sake of her four children. She had no time to grieve. She had to find a way for a widow with four small children to survive and support her family. She was in a foreign country with no money or insurance. She was ineligible to receive aid from the state—a widow had to have lived in Oregon six months to qualify for assistance.

Our mother continued to rent the farm in Youngs River. At threshing time, she cooked meals for the threshing crews on neighboring farms. She was a wonderful cook, and we remember coming home from school and smelling the delightful aroma of

Image courtesy of the Snow Family

The Bjork's home in Wallace Idaho, ca. 1908.
Lena Nordquist holds twins Hazel and Helen while older sister Ethel sits at left.

Image courtesy of the Snow Family



Emil and Sophie Bjork's home at Deep River

Image courtesy of the Snow Family

Seated left to right: Emil Bjork, Julius Lofgren(?), and Nils Bjork Englund. Standing: Oscar Nilson and Ole Bjork

freshly baked bread. We loved her delicious coffee bread and ringers, a kind of coffee cake. We never realized we were poor—we had plenty of good food, warm clothing, and love from mother.

Our mother made all our clothes, even our coats. She knitted sweaters, hats, socks, and gloves for us. She made our underwear and slips from empty flour sacks that often came in pretty colors and prints. It was a real treat when our mother would get out the horse and buggy and we would go

Image courtesy of the Snow Family

Left to Right: Ole Bjork, Emil Bjork, Annie Bjork Rex, Nils Bjork, Louis Lars Bjork, Karoline (Lena) Bjork, ca. 1915 Astoria.

to town. We would get supplies for the farm and maybe buy new shoes. Our busy mother found time to play with us, even if it was just a game of chase around our kitchen table.

We remember our Uncle Emil [Bjork] coming to visit us on the farm in Youngs River. He brought groceries and other supplies to help his widowed sister and her four small children. That was very kind of our Uncle Emil and Aunt Sophie because they had their own large family to support. They were always a caring

Image courtesy of the Snow Family

Karoline working at her brother Emil's logging camp.

aunt and uncle.

Our mother and her widowed sister-in-law, Emma Englund, rented the small Centennial Hotel in Astoria, and we moved there. [The Centennial Hotel was located on the north side of Commercial near 15th Street.] Mother and Aunt Emma worked hard running the hotel, and each of them had four children to care for. During this time, mother developed a problem they called "water on the lungs." Her doctor advised her to move to a warmer climate. Mother wrote to her sister-in-law, Theresa Nordquist Heward, in Gerlach, Nevada, where Theresa's husband operated a large ranch. Theresa replied that mother would be welcome to live with the Heward family until her illness improved. Mother and our little brother, Albin, moved to Gerlach where she hoped that her lung problem would be cured. In Nevada, our mother helped Aunt Theresa by cooking for the cowboys on the ranch. While mother and Albin were away, we three sisters stayed with kind neighbors, Rose and Frank Sales, in Youngs River. The Sales had been good to our family when we lived in Youngs River. We referred to them affectionately as Aunt Rose and Uncle Frank. After a year in Nevada, our mother felt well again and she returned to Oregon with our little brother, Albin. That was a happy day for all five of us.

Soon after mother returned from Nevada, a doctor told her that Helen needed to have her tonsils and adenoids removed. Our Aunt Annie and Uncle Gust Rex offered to help mother by taking care of Helen in Portland. Following surgery, Helen recovered nicely while living with her aunt and uncle and two cousins, Alice and Herbert. Also Aunt Sophie and Uncle Emil offered to keep Ethel at their home in Astoria, so she could go to grade school. This enabled mother, Hazel and Albin to move across the Columbia River to the north shore near Megler, Washington, where Uncle Emil had a logging camp. Our

Image courtesy of the Snow Family

Helen, Albin, and Hazel Nordquist, ca. 1914

mother became the cook at Emil's logging camp with ten-year-old Hazel as the waitress. Our mother worked long, hard hours at the camp. She had no refrigerator and no running water. She prepared meals for the loggers with a wood-burning stove. When mother washed clothes, she had only a tub and a washboard. She heated water on the wood stove in a big kettle. While the water was heating, she scrubbed the dirty clothes against a scrub board, wrung them out, and then soaked them in the hot water. She was strong and well again and able to do this back-breaking work.

When she returned to Astoria, we all moved to Uppertown near her sister-in-law Emma [Englund]. Later, we moved to a house in downtown

CCHS image # 10439.400s

Sunflower Dairy, 14th and Duane Streets in Astoria

Image courtesy of the Snow Family

Emil Bjork's home at 577 Rivington in Astoria. In the photo are Emil and his two sisters, Anna Rex and Karoline Lofgren, and his brother Louis and sister-in-law Emma Englund. In front are their childresn.

Image courtesy of the Snow Family

Emil Bjork with his Model Dairy delivery truck in front of his home at 577 Rivington, Astoria. Beside the car behind the truck is Gust Rex, Aunt Annie, their son Herbert and Aunt Emma Englund. In the last car are Alice Rex, Hazel Nordquist and Ethel Povey.

Image courtesy of the Snow Family

Helen, Albin, Ethel and Hazel, Nordquist, ca. 1916

Astoria on Franklin Avenue. Our mother took in boarders to provide income. She kept her home clean, prepared wonderful meals, and cared for her four children. To earn extra money, she cleaned other people's houses. She had to take Albin with her wherever she worked. Albin was always quiet and good while his mother cleaned; it was as if he knew that mother had to concentrate on her work.

After Uncle Emil and his partner closed their logging business near Megler, Washington, Emil started a dairy business in Astoria. In the beginning, the dairy business was in the basement of his home. Later

Image courtesy of the Snow Family

Cousins confirmed together at the Memorial English Lutheran Church in Astoria at 564 Grand Ave., ca. 1922. Back row: Axel Englund, Peter Carlson, Wilbert and Edwin Bjork. Front row: Hazel Nordquist, unidentified, Reverend Theodore A. Jansen (possibly), unidentified, Helen Nordquist

Image courtesy of the Snow Family

Karoline (Lena) Bjork Nordquist Lofgren flanked by twin daughters Hazel and Helen. In the back are Albin and Ethel.

he moved the business downtown where it was known as Larson's Dairy.* William Larson, Senior, who had a farm in Lewis and Clark, supplied the milk. After the milk was processed and bottled, Emil's sons delivered it to the customers seven days a week.

One advantage of the dairy business was that mother and Emil enjoyed plenty of real cream in their coffee. Their brother-sister relationship was the sweetest we have ever seen. They shared all their many joys and sorrows. Sometimes when mother was upset about something, Uncle Emil would say, "Lena, watsa matter you?" He always said it in a good-natured way with a twinkle in his eye. His wife Sophia died when their youngest child, Doris, was only seven years old. Sometimes Emil and mother wouldn't say much, but they understood how each other felt, and they seemed to gain strength from each other's presence.

Later, mother married Emil Lofgren. We remember that once he complained, "You always put the kids first." Our mother replied, "Yes, and as long as I have a breath in my body,

Image courtesy of the Snow Family

Hazel, Ethel, and Helen Nordquist, ca. 1929

I will do just that."

When the twins graduated from the eighth grade, mother told our stepfather, "The girls will get part-time jobs and go to high school." Our stepfather said, "Now that the girls have finished grammar school, they should get full-time jobs." He believed it was foolish to go to high school. Hazel and Helen went to high school.

In 1924, Hazel heard that there was an opening at the Liberty Theater, and she decided to apply. She and mother went to the theater. Hazel went inside, mother waited outside. The manager hired Hazel and asked her if she had a sister who would like to be an usher. Hazel was pleased to tell him that she had a twin sister who would also like a job. Some theater patrons were surprised to find the "same" person selling tickets at the outside window and ushering inside the theater. When customers asked the manager how the same young lady was able to sell tickets and usher too, he had to explain that identical twins worked for him. Later, the manager asked Hazel if she had another sister, and she replied, "Yes." Ethel worked at the theater with the twins until she was offered a better job as a bookkeeper for Uncle Emil at Larson's Dairy. After working at the theater for four years, Hazel and Helen graduated from high school. To show his appreciation for their hard work, the manager of the theater sent a letter with free passes to each member of Hazel's and Helen's graduating class. The whole class

enjoyed seeing the movie, "Casey at the Bat."

In high school they took commercial courses, so when they graduated, Helen was able to get a job as a stenographer at Pacific Power and Light Company, and Hazel took a job at Darigold Dairy as a bookkeeper. Although Hazel had taken five terms of shorthand, she never used this skill in any of her jobs. After being a bookkeeper, Hazel eventually became a licensed public accountant in Oregon.

We loved our Uncle Emil and Aunt Sophie and our Aunt Annie and Uncle Gust Rex. They were kind and generous to us as we grew up. Also, as children, we had many wonderful family gatherings each year. Every birthday was celebrated for the fourteen cousins in Astoria. These cousins were the children of our mother, Uncle Emil and Aunt Sophie, and Aunt Emma. We gathered in each other's homes to celebrate holidays. In the summertime we went camping, where we cooked outdoors, played games, swam, and sang songs by a campfire. We were a harmonious and happy extended family.

We received a rich heritage from our wonderful mother. It began and ended with much love and sacrifice throughout her life. She taught us to be fair, to be honest, and to be hard workers.

Our mother's sacrifice, love, and joy will live with us always. And our mother's four grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren and many great-great-grandchildren will cherish her memory. She was truly a wonderful lady.

[Karoline Janson-Bjork Nordquist Lofgren died March 21, 1952.]

* Doris Bjork Paldanius provided more detail about ownership of the dairy in a letter to Hal Snow. Doris spells Emil Bjork's wife as "Sofie."

The family was living in the Deep River Logging camp. (They moved to Astoria in 1916.) Sofie Bjork came over to Astoria and operated the Centennial Hotel for six months while Emil's sister, Lena, was in the hospital.

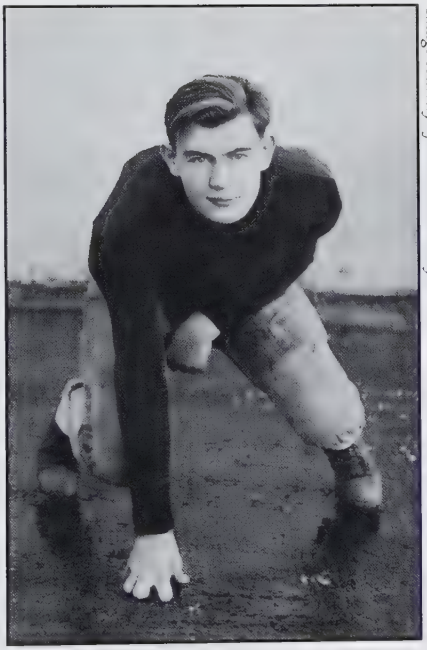


Image courtesy of the Snow Family

Albin Nordquist in his Astoria High School football uniform his sophomore year.

Emil remained working at the logging camp (about 1912).

They rented a home at 27th & Franklin. [Franklin is now Marine Drive.] In 1917, Emil and Sofia purchased an incomplete home on 577 Rivington Ave.

In this period of time, Emil Bjork had an accident, a piece of steel from out of a loading block went into his eye. He lost the sight of one eye. It was then he decided no more logging for him. As he was recuperating and looking for something other than logging, he ran into a dairy owned by Feak (?), called the Model Dairy that was located on 14th Street. [The name John W. Feak appears in the 1920-21 Polk's Directory of Astoria.] The dairy was in financial trouble so he bought the business. He cleaned out the cement basement at home and moved the dairy plant in our basement. At this period of time, the Astoria fire burned the town including the Larson Dairy Company. Larson Dairy was a stockholder outfit: William Larson, Mike Seppa, Hannah [Olson?], Frank Mudd, and Mark Johnson. This ended in a merger of the companies. They got a loan and erected a building at 9th Street.✤

Albin Nordquist's World War II experience as a prisoner of war deserves a story that we hope to print sometime in the Cumtux.

Image courtesy of the Snow Family

First cousins Daniel Nordquist, Carol E. Povey Walker, Carolyn Stewart Bills, and Harold A. (Hal) Snow, November 28, 1973.

A FAVORITE SON COMES HOME

reprint of an article appearing in the
Astoria Evening Budget, **August 1945**

One of our favorite sons, we mean Astoria's favorite sons, returned from the wars this month. We refer to Lt. Col. Del Bjork, who has been outstanding in many ways ever since he first made his impression on the opposing tackle in the mud of an Astoria football field.

Bjork has been around in the world as a fighting man, who managed to be in an astonishing amount of combat, from Attu to Okinawa. He was brilliant all-coast tackle for the University of Oregon after an outstanding high school athletic career. He didn't stop there. He went to the big-time and earned a berth on the right side of the huge and murderous Chicago Bear line, where at 215 pounds he was a bantam-weight in the beefy front walls of professional football.

Bjork grew tired of the professional gridiron and pulled out of the sport to enter teaching, for which he is amply-equipped with both brains and academic degrees. He was in Pendleton when the war came, and entered as a lieutenant. On bloody Attu Bjork was a company commander and distinguished himself in combat during 21 days of bitter, costly, stubborn fighting against about 2,500 last-ditch, suicidal Japs. He was decorated with the distinguished service cross, and was made a major before his division moved south to Pearl Harbor.

Then Bjork's division teamed up with the fourth marines to smash at Kwajalein, Roi and Namur. After that action Bjork went to Leyte, which he describes as one of the most complete battles—army, navy and air — of the war, and during which the American infantrymen took a battering before securing one of the pivotal points of MacArthur's return to the Philippines.

By the time of Okinawa Bjork was a lieutenant colonel, in command of a battalion. On Okinawa it was the lot of Bjork's battalion to make the original break-through, via night attack, at Yonabaru. It was from this point that Naha was eventually enveloped and the Americans permitted to struggle through the bottleneck that stalemated fighting for 40 days before the southern tip of the island was mopped up and Okinawa was made a gigantic aircraft carrier for the final

Image courtesy of Suzie Bjork Bell

Del Bjork in his Chicago Bears football uniform. He was No. 82 on Chicago's 1937 roster. He played the 1937 and 1938 seasons. During the two off-seasons, he earned his Master's Degree in Health & Physical Education at the University of Oregon. When Hitler invaded Poland and England declared war, he signed up for the Army. He spent twenty-five years in the Army then spent the next fifteen years in the Athletic Department at Clatsop Community College. He retired in 1979.

campaigns against Japan. Bjork got the silver star on Okinawa.

This is only an outline of Bjork's experiences. The details are vivid, awesome and proud. But they come out of this barrel-chested local son only after patient, persistent and dogged interview. So it isn't so much of the bona fide hero about Del Bjork that makes him a favorite of our sons, as it is his unassuming modesty, his quiet firmness of character, and the "symbol-ness" about him.

Because it is by and through a chap like Del Bjork that we like to talk and think of American men. We're not talking about his press clippings, the silver leaves on his shoulders, the ribbons on his chest or the expansion of the same. We are talking about playing the game of football, or of war or of life—clean, hard and fast; of maintaining individual perspective and proportion, one outstanding young man with relation to his importance among other young men.

That this splendid man, and millions more like him, should have survived emphasizes and gives clearer meaning to the tragedy that thousands did not.

Meanwhile we're glad "Benny" Bjork is home. And we repeat—he is one of our favorite sons. ⚜

Del Bjork passed away in 1988. His three children are: Bernie Bjork and Susanna Bjork-Bell of Astoria and Erik Bjork of Vancouver, Washington.

A TREK IN TIME

by Allie Englund

Fair skinned, sandy hair and green eyes, my great grandfather, Axel Englund, was a man of integrity, dedication to family, a strong will to work and a great sense of business. Starting with nothing, he built an institution that now has eleven stores and over a hundred employees.

Axel Englund was born April 20, 1908 in Oregon. The family had been living at Astoria. When he was young, his parents, Nils and Emma Englund, moved their family to a logging camp at Deep River. Life in the logging camps was difficult and dangerous. A few years later when his father was logging at Big Creek, he died in an accident there. Axel was only nine years old. Emma then moved the family back to Astoria in 1918.

After only two years of high school and a promising career in sports, Axel had to leave school to help support his family, taking a job at the age of sixteen with the Beebe-Ullfers Company Marine store.

The Beebe Company's headquarters were located in Portland, Oregon. The local store stood at the corner of 14th and Marine Drive. A tavern (Hazel's/Lattitude) is now located on the spot. The job was a fortunate one for Axel. He quickly climbed the ranks and became a store manager, traveling up and down the coast, selling to the commercial fishermen and learning many aspects of the business. During this time, he met and married Freda V. Johnson. They had two children, Jon and Suzanne.

After twenty years of learning and working in the marine supply business, Axel started his own company with his brother-in-law, Chet Vincent. Financing was had through Shell Oil and International Paint Company. Axel and Chet built their new store at the foot of 15th Street. The original store, Englund Marine Supply, is now empty after sixty-three years of business in that location. The dark wood floors that Axel first walked on are still intact.

The location of the store was important for its success. It had to be built on deep water so that the fishing boats could be fueled there. This allowed the fishermen easy access to get to needed supplies. The company grew and employees were hired.

Axel was not all work and no play. He enjoyed the competi-

CCHS image #6361.505#

First cousins Delbert Bjork and Albin Nordquist were on the 1931 Astoria High School football te
Front row: Doug Messenger, Del Bjork, Ed Ek, Te

. Back row, left to right: Ed Makela, Bob Bergstrom, Howard "Nig" Tihila, Robert "Buck" Caspell.
lias, Albin Nordquist, Ed Elliot and Elmer Koskelo.

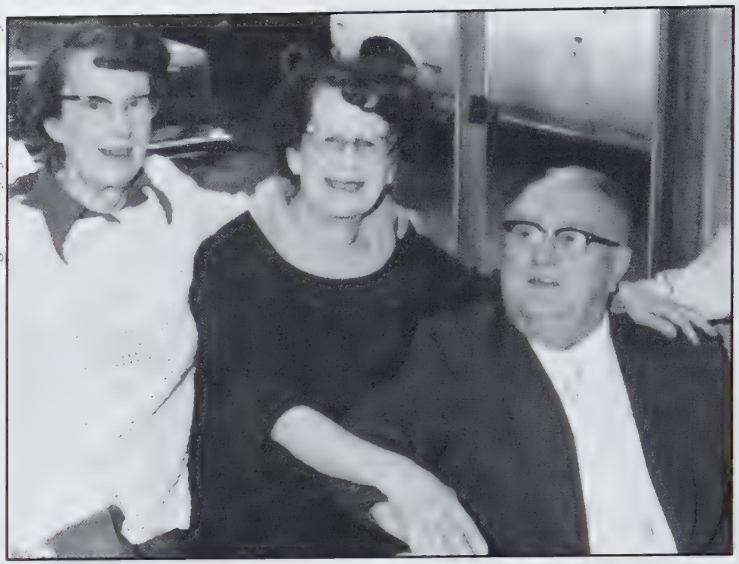


Image courtesy of the Snow Family

Hazel, Helen, and their cousin Axel Englund, ca. 1978

tion of the local derbies and speedboat racing. He competed every year in the popular salmon derby, winning once. He became a member of the Regatta Association and the Columbia Motorboat Club. In 1929, outboard motors were a new phenomenon and to stir up interest in them, Axel determined to set a record with his 12 ½ foot Big Stepper speedboat. The trek began at the Hawthorne bridge in Portland and ended in Astoria. The 16 horsepower Johnson motor brought his boat to Astoria in three hours and forty-nine minutes through ninety-seven miles of cold rain and sleet. Choppy water forced him to crouch with his arm over the engine to protect the spark plugs from the solid sheets of water that swept across the speeding boat. His enthusiasm for the thrill of sport was clear to all.

On October 8, 1980, Axel was seventy-two years old and close to retirement. After visiting the Westport store, he went to lunch with his brother and friends. Axel suffered a heart attack and died there in Westport.

By that time, Englund Marine had four stores: Astoria, Ilwaco, Westport & Charleston. Axel's son, Jon, took over the reins, building the business to seven retail stores and related wholesale warehouses and a life raft shop. The business now operates out of eleven locations. It is a three-generation, family-run business with Jon's youngest son, Kurt, now working alongside his father. Englund Marine has been and is still successful as a result of Axel Englund's hard work and integrity. ⚜

CCHS image #6195.582

1929-1930 Lower Columbia Champion basketball team, "Campbell Holmes." Back row: Jim Holmes, Oscar Hauke, Einar Wilson, Dodo Larson, unidentified; Front row: Henry Jurgensen, Oliver Pesonen, Axel Englund, Pete Tadei.

TERVO

by Denny Thompson

Following are some of my memories of Portway's infamous citizen, Tervo, who was portrayed on page 48 of the Summer 2009 edition of *Cumtux*:

Tervo lived in a little shack in the woods behind McCallister's grocery and home on the corner of Portway Street and Taylor Avenue (now known as West Marine Drive) in Astoria. The old Texaco service station is on that lot now. Tervo's shack stood about where the machine shop that houses the steam train engine restoration is located. This area at that time was all brush and trees. His little shack probably had no water or sanitary facilities, but it was his home. All the neighborhood kids (the Portway gang) had strict orders to leave Tervo alone and not to go near the shack.

One day, Mr. Fred Erickson, who had a home on Taylor Avenue where the State Highway Department building is by the Astoria bridge, found Tervo in his usual inebriated condition on the street and assisted him back to his little shack in the woods. Tervo, ever grateful, invited Mr. Erickson into his shack for dinner. Upon entering the premises, Mr. Erickson immediately excused himself

CCHS photo #3492.345

McCallister's Grocery on the NW corner of Portway St. and Taylor Ave. (now West

as he saw a pot on the stove boiling away. In it was a seagull with feathers on it.

Tervo, as I recall, usually conversed in Finnish although he did speak English to some extent. He actually was a kind man. To my knowledge, he never hurt anyone, but had a habit of helping himself to whatever alcohol he could find, regardless of the type it was or to whom it belonged.

This area of brush and trees was only one of our depression era playgrounds. The sandy beach where the Port has the boat storage yard was another, also the area from Portway Street east to Uniontown, which was all sand that had been pumped in by dredges when Taylor Avenue was filled in and the street paved in 1924.

When we played in these areas, we saw Tervo almost every day as he made his daily rounds in his eternal search for more alcohol. This would have been the 1930 to 1940 era.

These are some memories of one of the Portway kids.

* * *

Following is the list of members of the Portway gang. All of us later served in the armed forces during World War II. They included: the McCallister boys: Bob, who served with Co. L., Jim in the Army Air Corps and Ray in the Army. Don Teppola served in the Navy Air Corps, George Sjolund, Navy, Denny Thompson Army Air Corps, Dick Thompson Navy Air Corps and our honorary member Alan Ahola, Army. Alan's grandmother, Mrs. Jarvinen, lived above the Portway Tavern. There were many other boys in Smith Point and Uniontown that would join us in our daily endeavors. Also included was Torsten Berg, George Sjolund's cousin who drowned along with his Dad while crab fishing during the mid 1930s. ⚜

Marine Dr.), ca. 1920. The Portway Cafe (now the Portway Tavern) is still there today.

CCHS image # 2004.00y

Clara Young Reames on her wedding day, September 11, 1901. To the right of the bride is Nell Utzinger, then Hattie Utzinger. Third from the right is May Utzinger. The two on the far right sitting on the grass are Jessie Sands and Marie Utzinger. The others are unidentified.

CLARA WILHELMINA YOUNG

by Liisa Penner

In wealthy families of the 1890s and early 1900s, young women were often encouraged to study music as a serious past-time. It was left to their brothers to take up careers in the family business, or law, politics, and medicine. Clara Young, the daughter of "capitalist" Benjamin Young, followed the example of Captain George Flavel's daughters, Nellie and Katie, by traveling extensively through Europe studying music. And like them, she might have continued as a "professional student" throughout the rest of her life, but she suddenly made a career change. Though we don't understand the real motivation for this change we can guess what happened. Clara Young apparently fell in love with Dr. Frank Delbert Reames, described in the newspaper story of their wedding as a popular young physician of Klamath Falls.

The wedding took place at Grace Episcopal Church in Astoria on September 11, 1901 at 2 p.m., "one of the prettiest weddings which ever occurred in this city." The bride wore a dress of white satin trimmed in heavy appliqué and carried roses. She wore a veil and orange blossoms. One bridesmaid wore pink silk organdy and the other white silk organdy. Both carried bouquets of pink sweet peas. After the wedding, the reception was held at the house of the bride's father (now the Benjamin Young Bed and Breakfast) where the bride received many presents including a check from her father for a large sum of money.

A few months before her wedding, the first in a series of tragedies happened. Clara's brother Johan died of a lung disease. He had just earned his law degree and had been chosen a representative to the Oregon State legislature. Early in 1902, six months after Clara's wedding, her mother died. Then in January of the following year, Clara's husband fell ill and died.

Clara never gave up her interest in music but returned to school, this time to study medicine. She graduated from the University of Oregon medical school in 1907. Three years later she married Dr. Eldred Waffle and they had two daughters. One, Josephine Waffle Swanson, was a Regatta Queen and a teacher at Astoria High School and Astoria Middle School. She was also a columnist for the *Daily Astorian*.

Clara Wilhelmina Young's biogra-

phy appears in the 1928 book *Women of the West: A Series of Biographical sketches of Living Eminent Women in the Eleven Western States of the United States of America*, edited by Max Binheim. The biography omits Clara's first husband.

"Waffle, Clara Wilhelmina, (Mrs.), M.D. Child Specialist. Born in San Francisco, California, February 11, 1874, daughter of Benjamin and Christiana Young. Parents moved to Astoria, Oregon, and became pioneer salmon packers on Columbia and Frazier Rivers. Married in 1910 to Dr. Eldred B. Waffle. Children Clara Josephine, Frances Elizabeth. Practices medicine together with her husband. At one time City Health Officer. Has traveled extensively and has studied music in Germany and Sweden. For 16 years, instructor to nurses at St. Mary's Training School. Member: Friday Music Club. Home: Astoria, Oregon."

After a long career as a local physician, health officer and teacher, Clara Wilhelmina Waffle died September 1, 1953 in Astoria at the age of 79. She was buried at Greenwood Cemetery between the graves of her two husbands.

"Through adversity to the stars" might have been her motto. ⚜

CCHS image # 5066.565

Clara Young Reames (third from left) in dissecting room of the University of Oregon Medical School, ca. 1906

THE 1918–19 "SPANISH" INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC IN CLATSOP COUNTY: A CHRONOLOGY

by Liisa Penner

Each fall, waves of newly mutated influenza viruses spread across the world bringing a few days of misery to millions of victims. Because immunity conferred by one strain of virus does not protect against the next to arrive, no one was safe from them until recently.

For most victims, the disease is little more than an inconvenience; very few of those infected get complications such as pneumonia. But, once in a while, a killer virus is let loose. In the fall of 1918, a virus, commonly known as "Spanish influenza," brought more than misery; it brought death to more than twenty million people in the world and one half million in the United States. In Oregon, it killed two thousand and here in Clatsop County, over a hundred and fifty people died, most within a three to four month period.

We are all familiar with the symptoms of influenza: a cough, headache, muscular stiffness and aching, fever, chills, sweating, fatigue, and sometimes, nausea and vomiting. Many of us have also experienced pneumonia or other complications that followed a bout of the flu. These are generally deadly only to the elderly, the very young and those who suffer serious health problems.

A peculiar characteristic of the flu that spread in the winter of 1918-19 was that most of the victims were healthy men in their twenties and thirties. Another was that they died soon after contracting the disease. One day, they were walking about, carrying on with their usual work and two or three days later, they were lying among the dead waiting to be buried.

Forty to eighty percent of the fatal pneumonias were due to primary infections of a particularly vicious type of virus. The rest were due to secondary bacterial infections.

Vaccines are now developed each year to fight the forms of influenza viruses that have been identified as the ones most likely to appear, thereby protecting those who are at risk of

developing complications. Ribavirin or Amanta-dine are given in rare cases to fight the viral infection once it has been contracted. Antibiotics are administered to those who develop bacterial infections.

In 1918, the medication most often mentioned for treatment of influenza was a form of aspirin. Some doctors were then injecting those who had not yet caught the flu with a vaccine cultured from the tissues of people who had died of the disease, in the hope that it would confer immunity in the way that smallpox vaccine does. This treatment was later found to be ineffective.

Because influenza is an airborne disease spread by coughing or sneezing, it is highly contagious, and measures taken to prevent it from spreading are not very successful. The measures used seventy-eight years ago are the same used today: patients are isolated and disposable materials are used to cover their coughs and sneezes. All materials from the sick room are burned up or disinfected.

Medical personnel may not have fully understood the source of the disease then, but they did understand the conditions that fostered its spread. In some cases there was little they could do about it. This was the situation late in 1918.

A world war presents many opportunities for the spread of contagious disease. Soldiers live in close quarters, in unsanitary conditions; they are poorly fed, and generally worn out; many have injuries and other ailments that go untreated for lengthy periods of time. In addition, there are massive movements of men over long distances of terrain in many directions. These were the conditions all across Europe

Image courtesy of the editor

July 4, 1918. Troops from Fort Stevens parade through Hammond. A little over four months later, some forty-seven soldiers in Clatosp County had died as a result of the influenza epdemic.

in 1918 a few months before the end of the first World War. It was at this time that the most lethal influenza virus to evolve in many years made its way to Europe. The disease began taking more casualties than the war. It then came to the United States.

The flu arrives in the U.S.

Soldiers returning from the war brought the flu virus to Boston sometime in August 1918. In late September, it was discovered in the soldiers at Camp Lewis in Washington state. The *Morning Astorian* reported on September 27th that the Spanish Influenza had not yet struck a single person in Oregon. The disease was spreading like wildfire across the U.S. but so far, Oregon had been spared. Doubt was expressed that there would be any danger here.

The first attempts to prepare for the arrival of the disease in Astoria were imposed from outside. Headlines in the *Morning Astorian* of September 26,1918 reported that "FILTH CONDITIONS IN PLACES WHERE SOLDIERS CONGREGATE SPEEDILY MUST BE RIGHTED- Otherwise United States Will Declare Boycott of Restaurants, Barber Shops, Rooming Houses, Picture Theatres, Dance Halls and Other Establishments Which Investigation Shows Are Veritable Disease Traps for Men of the Army. INSPECTION DISCLOSES VILENESS AND DIRT." The article went on to claim that the epidemic that had occurred the previous year was not due to conditions at the camp, but to conditions of filth in the restaurants, rooming houses, picture theatres and soft drink establishments in the city of Astoria. This was an interesting tactic, considering the events that were to occur. It appeared that someone in charge at the fort had decided that the best defense was a good offense, even though it was aimed in the wrong direction.

Doctor Nellie Smith Vernon, already serving as Astoria City health officer since 1907, was asked to take on the temporary role of health officer for the whole of Clatsop County. She was given the responsibility for enforcing the state and federal laws in regard to protecting the health of all the residents of the county until danger from the influenza epidemic was past. For the next four months, she was the general in charge of a very small, battered army, fighting an enemy no one could see. Doctor Vernon had a difficult job to do, in chaotic conditions, without the proper tools and without sufficient authority to act when it was needed. She put up a valiant fight against those in the community who resisted the many different measures taken to prevent the spread of the disease. The death toll would have been much higher, had she not acted as decisively as she did. (*Morning Astorian*, Sept. 27, 1918)

Doctor Vernon ordered doctors in the county to report all local cases of influenza to her. She reported to Robert E. Holt, state health officer and he in turn reported to the U.S. Surgeon General.

The flu arrives in the county

At the end of September 1918, the influenza virus booked passage on the trains that brought three loads of soldiers, 1,650 men, to Fort Stevens from Camp Lewis in Washington. The commanding officer later reported that he had no advance warning that the men were to arrive and no provision had been made to increase the medical personnel for them. Many of the new men were sick and needed attention. The flu they brought hit the crowded camp with all the effect of an explosion. On October 2nd, there were 120 cases of influenza at Fort Stevens.

The duties of soldiers in the county were not confined to Fort Stevens. They were involved in the production of spruce for airplanes needed for the war. This took them to saw mills throughout the county and to the logging camps, and to the shipyards. The soldiers brought the disease to the workers in these places and they in turn carried the disease home to their families.

According to the October 2nd *Morning Astorian*, "It was at first hoped that these [first cases] could be stamped out quietly, without resorting to rigid measures. But the disease claimed new victims; the hospital became filled with sufferers from the respiratory affestion [affliction?].... Quarantine of the camp was resorted to yesterday afternoon to prevent further spread of the disease. All meetings where large numbers of men congregate have been called off."

Danger minimized

An article in the *Morning Astorian* on October 2nd captioned "SPANISH INFLUENZA NOTHING MORE THAN OLD FASHIONED GRIP [GRIPPE] AND NO MORE DANGEROUS," contradicted information in the text printed below it.

The current flu was decidedly more malignant than earlier epidemics, it said.

Twelve rules were given for control of the disease. They were:

1. Avoid needless crowding--influenza is a crowd disease.
2. Smother your coughs and your Sneezes - others do not want the germs which you would throw away.
3. Your nose, not your mouth, was made to breathe through-get the habit.
4. Remember the three "C's"-a clean mouth, clean skin, and clean clothes.
5. Try to keep cool when you walk and warm when you ride and sleep.
6. Open the windows always at

home at night; at the office when practicable.
7. Food will win the war if you give it a chance-help by choosing and chewing your food well.
8. Your fate may be in your hands wash your hands before eating.
9. Don't let the waste product of digestion accumulate-drink a glass or two of water on getting up.
10. Don't use a napkin, towel, spoon, fork, glass or cup which has been used by another person and not washed.
11. Avoid tight clothes, tight shoes, and tight gloves-seek to make nature your ally, not your prisoner.
12. When the air is pure, breathe all of it you can-breathe deeply.

Mixed messages came from all directions. On October 4th, the *Morning Astorian* reported that: "Despite the fact that a hurry call has been sent to the local Red Cross workers for 1000 respirators for suffering men at Fort Stevens, Colonel Rafferty, commandant at the post stated yesterday to a representative of the *Morning Astorian* that there are no cases of Spanish influenza at the camp. He admitted, however, that some seventy-five men were suffering with bad colds and confined to the hospital."

On October 8th three soldiers died at the fort hospital. Private Hjalmar E. Johnson, a twenty-six year-old member of the Spruce Division from Minneapolis, Minnesota, and twenty year-old Private William Grothaus, of Maine in Indiana, a member of the artillery corps, died of bronchial pneumonia. Captain Harold M. Craig, of the medical corps, was the third victim. He was from Detroit, Michigan, forty years old, and had been transferred from Fort Seward, Alaska a few weeks before. He became ill while attending the patients at the hospital.

It was noted that quite a number of the soldiers at the fort were sick with pneumonia. The words, "flu" and "influenza" were not mentioned in the news from Fort Stevens.

The Surgeon General of the public health service suggested to all state health officers that schools and places of amusement be closed and all public speaking discontinued in areas where the disease was found.

"While quite a number of men are still ill at the post hospital, the epidemic appears to be subsiding,"the October 9th *Astoria Budget* stated. "The number of new cases is gradually growing less, and, yesterday, 47 men were discharged from the hospital as cured. Among those ill is another member of the hospital corps."

At Fort Stevens, the cause of the deaths could no longer be hidden. "Influenza, raging at Fort Stevens, claimed three victims last night, although pneumonia was given as the cause of the deaths. But pneumonia is apparently an after development

of the Spanish influenza. The army camp is now quarantined. No man can leave the cantonment [temporary housing for the troops]. All meetings where large bodies of men are brought together are called off indefinitely and the fort has settled down to the stern business of fighting the plague...."

Lieutenant Malcom Cunningham, surgeon of the 76th Spruce Division stationed at the Hammond Mill, died at the hospital the next night as a result of an attack of bronchial pneumonia. His wife was also said to be ill.

Each death report was printed under inconspicuous headlines in small type, the size once reserved for items of social news. Whole columns were now filled with death notices. Larger headlines were reserved for war reports: "FIENDISH HUNS LEVEL CAMBRAI WITH BOMBS," "GERMANY DRAFTS REPLY TO U.S. PEACE QUERIES," "GREAT AMERICAN AIR RAID AGAINST ENEMY NEAR VERDUN," "BULGARIA TO SEND TROOPS AGAINST TURKEY." Every day brought headlines like these from *Morning Astorian* on October 11, 1918. The influenza epidemic was one worry among many.

Cities closed down

It wasn't until October 12th, that Astoria was shut down. "Because of an increasing number of cases of influenza in Astoria, Mayor Johnson [actually acting-mayor] has ordered all theatres, pool, and dance halls closed until further notice. The order includes back rooms of cigar stores as well as poolrooms, where persons congregate....Inasmuch as there will be no school until Monday, and Sunday intervening, no action was thought necessary toward closing the schools and churches until Monday when conditions will govern." (*Morning Astorian*)

Shortly afterward, Mayor Johnson issued a blanket order closing all gatherings anywhere in Astoria, including schools and churches.

Telegrams from headquarters of the public health service ordered a committee of seven to be appointed by the chapter for the purpose of taking whatever public measures were deemed necessary.

Those appointed were: Dr. R. J. Pilkington, chairman; Dr. Hartman, Mrs. Nat Tallant, Miss Elizabeth Ford, Mrs. R. M. Blake, W.E. Grace and Dr. T. Forsstrom.

The bodies of local boys who died away from home began arriving on the train for burial in local cemeteries. (Because the epidemic hit during wartime, one tragic result was that many of those who died in Clatsop County came from homes halfway across the country while local boys died far away from their homes and families.)

Government medical men sent out information sheets about influenza across the U. S. In some victims, they said, Pfeiffer's bacillus, a small rod-

shaped bacterium, had been found. In others, the agents were streptococci. Proper precautions for handling patients were printed in the paper. Nurses and attendants were to wear folded gauze or masks. Wrappers or aprons were to be worn over clothing while caring for the patient and taken off when leaving the sickroom.

A little poem was printed as a health reminder:

"Cover up each cough and sneeze,
If you don't, you 'II spread disease. "

On October 12th, the Seaside City Council ordered Seaside shut down too, including schools and churches and gatherings in homes. No cases of flu had been found there yet.

On the 13th, the *Morning Astorian* complained that attempts had been made to keep the news out of the press that Spanish influenza was prevalent in Astoria.

A few days later, Dr. Vernon ordered that all the woodwork and ironwork, desks, stairs, etc. in the schools were to be disinfected.

By the 18th, Warrenton, Columbia Beach and Walluski schools were closed.

Several deaths from the flu still occurred each day. Most of the dead were still the young soldiers from the fort.

Astoria's acting mayor, Charles E. Johnson, was coming under increasing criticism from businessmen for keeping public places of amusement closed down. He refused to give in to their demands. The *Morning Astorian* of October 21st supported him, explaining that "Just one week ago today, there were in this city just seven cases of influenza, today there are 450; a week ago today there were no cases of pneumonia, today there are 15 cases." The public was warned not to believe statements that the city was closed because of the whim of some person or persons. "The situation is serious and cause for the greatest care."

The Red Cross was the only large group allowed to meet because of their work in making bandages, etc. for the soldiers. Members observed some precautions, though. The speaker of their telephone was muffled with cheesecloth treated with disinfectant. Above the speaker was a note, "Poison. Talk a Little Distance from the Phone."

An isolation hospital near the county poor farm at Walluski was ordered renovated by acting-Mayor Johnson and the first resident was bedded down there on October 20th.

On October 22nd were reported the deaths of Inga Louise Twedt, a waitress, Henry Krum, an employee of the Rodgers shipyard, Jacob Myalla, Matt Kempainen, and Louis Marcello, all three fishermen, Helen Korstinen, a nurse for Dr. Clara Waffle, Mrs. N.P. Sorenson, the wife of a logger, Gustaf Koski, a tallyman at the Wilson shipyard, and Emanuel Syvanen, a sawyer at the

Wilson shipyard, among others. The disease was spreading into the general population.

Some schools in the county remained open. The school superintendent could only suggest to the school boards that they close the schools, but the decision to do so rested with the boards.

Seaside's emergency hospital

At Seaside, by the 25th, an emergency hospital at the Oates hotel was set up with District surgeon, Captain Fred L. Darrow of the U.S. Medical Corps in charge. The ladies of Seaside were serving as nurses under head nurse Rita Avery. The officials of the city also set up a prophylactic station in the War Camp Community Club. All the residents of Seaside were urged to stop by once a day to get their throats sprayed with an antiseptic.

Rosenberg Hall, in Astoria, at the corner of 11th and Exchange, had been leased for use as a Soldiers' and Sailors' club under the auspices of the War Camp Community Service. It was said to be capable of taking care of the needs of a thousand soldiers a day. Sleeping accommodations were to be provided for two hundred men. Instead of walking the streets, the men would have a place to go for showers, a gymnasium, mending room, canteen, letter writing room, library and dance floor. But with the soldiers at Fort Stevens confined to the camp, there was little opportunity to use it as planned.

In Astoria, where fifteen hundred cases of flu were now reported, more space was desperately needed. Some of the rooms in the Rosenberg Hall's War Camp Community Service organization were turned over for use as an emergency hospital under the direct supervision of the city. The owner of the hall, Dr. C. C. C. Rosenberg, protested this change of use. The community reacted angrily. The doctor was told that he had no voice in the matter. The *Morning Astorian* on October 27th printed a letter that Dr. Rosenberg's daughter wrote to explain his actions. The community was not in a mood to listen.

The committee making the decision about the hall included: Harley J. Slusher of the Lumberman's Hospital Association, Chief Nace Grant of the police force, Fred Wright of the McEachern ship yard, Arthur M. Cannon, executive secretary of the war camp community service in the district, acting Mayor Charles Johnson and Dr. Nellie Vernon, county health officer. Fifty cots and beds were to be installed on the third floor.

St. Mary's hospital was full, every bed being occupied. A desperate call for nurses went out into the community. Anyone and everyone who had experience in nursing, either of a trained or practical kind, were asked to contact Slusher. An appeal also went out for night shirts, blankets and

towels. The Typographical Union No. 6783 and Cooks and Waiters Union 311 responded generously. The need was still so great that patients were warned to bring their own bedding and night shirts with them to the emergency hospital.

Back in 1916, an editorial in one of the newspapers complained of the cost of a proposed contagion hospital near the county poor farm, and suggested that contagious cases be cared for in existing structures at the poor farm, St. Mary's hospital, or at the quarantine station on the Washington side of the river. Dr. Vernon had responded that the quarantine station was too far away for doctors to treat their patients, and putting people with contagious diseases in with those people who were already in poor health would result in many more deaths. (The medical officials supposed that any epidemic would be scarlet fever or diphtheria or some similar disease that periodically swept through the area.) It was a measure of the seriousness of the situation that St. Mary's now was filled with contagious patients. (November 25, 1916, *Astoria Budget*)

Christopher Lancaster, a national road builder, came to Astoria carrying a small amount of serum of streptococcus haemolyticus, which he said had been used in some places as a "preventative." It had been isolated from the bloodstream of a fatal case of influenza. Physicians for the next month or so were vaccinating patients with serum shipped into the city. Thomas Bilyeu, general manager of the Astoria Marine Iron Works, made a hurried trip to Portland to obtain some serum for his workers. (October 27, 1918, *Morning Astorian*)

Long lists of the newly dead continued to appear in the papers.

The welfare of residents in Clatsop County took on national importance when production at the industrial plants in the area was cut fifty percent due to illness from the flu. Spruce wood was needed in the manufacture of airplanes for the war.

At the McEachern ship yard, a woman and her five small children were all very sick with the flu, in their home, with no one to care for them. The father and son had been taken to the hospital. The plea went out, "Will someone please answer the call and relieve the distress for the cause of suffering humanity?" (*Astoria Budget*, October 28, 1918)

On October 26th, Dr. Frederick Anderson died of pneumonia. He was said to have been one of Astoria's best known practicing physicians.

Meanwhile, employees of Joe Moore's cigar store in Astoria wore gauze influenza masks so that anyone with a "slight" case of the flu could go and buy cigars and not worry about infecting the workers. Others were saying that the masks were ineffective.

In Astoria, the nurses at the emergency hospital were: Rose Anderson (head nurse), Lillian Gaston and Mrs.

Newton. The assistants were Mrs. Cole, Ella McNaughton, Katherine Springer, Wenona Dyer, Bonnie Service and Virginia Paulsen.

On November 11, the wonderful news of the German surrender spread across the country. The U.S. had been at war with Germany since April 1917. The nation was mad with joy. Everyone wanted public celebrations with parades and music and speeches. The next day, the newspapers stated that the flu had finally been checked in Astoria. This statement was seized upon by those who desperately wanted to believe it was true. Dr. Nellie Vernon demanded that a retraction be printed. She warned that the epidemic was not over yet. Many new cases had been reported to her just the day before, she said. However, after she consulted the state authorities, she changed her mind and agreed to lift the ban on gatherings.

Partial flu statistics

The statistics were printed in the paper on the 12th. They were staggering. There had been 111 deaths from the flu recorded in Astoria, thirty-three at Fort Stevens and an unknown number elsewhere in the county. The statistics were not complete because not all doctors were reporting. The doctors and their nurses were also succumbing to the disease and under such conditions, statistics were nearly forgotten. (*Astoria Budget*)

The day following this report, Sister Ann Gabriel died at St. Mary's Hospital. She had been one of the nursing staff who devoted herself day and night to the care of the influenza patients.

The paper reported on several deaths from purpura hemorrhagica at Fort Stevens, following an attack of pneumonia. This condition was characterized by bleeding into the skin and tissues. Fourteen deaths occurred at Fort Stevens in November, according to Marshall Hanft's book on Fort Stevens. (See reference.)

On November 15th, acting Mayor Johnson removed the ban on public gatherings in Astoria. The churches opened, and the libraries, Y. M. C. A., the movie theaters and fraternal associations. But, Fort Stevens remained closed. Schools were re-opened on the 18th of November.

With the war over, troops began the slow process of being discharged from the service. By the middle of December, orders arrived for all the soldiers stationed at the mouth of the Columbia to return home to be mustered out. This mass movement of men was to result in another outbreak of the influenza virus.

A new outbreak

On January 11th, another quarantine was ordered into effect as a result of another epidemic of flu raging in the city. Over five hundred new cases had been identified. Fortunately, it

proved to be less serious than the last. Only eleven people had died from it in the preceding three weeks (since Christmas). The new mayor of Astoria, James Bremner, refused to close Astoria down. Doctor Vernon agreed that it was not necessary. She even encouraged children to visit their friends. It is better for them, she said, to get out into the fresh air, than to stay at home.

Everyone was tired of the flu and its restrictions. "The thing most to be feared is fear itself," the *Morning Astorian* on January 22nd claimed. It quoted the U.S. Surgeon General as saying that putting the ban on a city does not stop the spread of influenza. Fortunately, the epidemic was near its end.

In February, there were only a few deaths due to pneumonia. Then, suddenly, the flu was gone.

Future outbreaks

Influenza epidemics continue to sweep across the world, some more dangerous than others, but none have been as deadly as the 1918–19 epidemic. We should remember that a small mutation in one of its genes may change an ordinary influenza virus into another killer virus. It may happen next year, or the year after. The medical references all say that it is only a matter of time. ⚜

My thanks to Bonnie Sue Oathes for having provided many articles on the epidemic from the local newspapers.

My thanks, too, to Dr. F. Warren Lovell for having corrected some errors in the original manuscript and providing information about the nature of this epidemic. Any errors that may appear are those of the author.

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ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL

Visitors to the Heritage Museum occasionally spot the strange doorway high above in the east facing wall of the attic of the Owens-Adair apartments across 16th Street, a doorway that leads to the open air. And they sometimes ask about the basaltic rock wall that frames the parking lot of the apartments. These were formerly elements of the old St. Mary's Hospital and a part of the long history of one of the most important establishments in the county.

In 1880 with a population of about 7,222 in Clatsop County, there was an urgent need for a hospital. A few doctors served the county, but their offices did not have the kind of facility a hospital could provide. The opportunity to purchase a building for this use arose when Mrs. Arrigoni could no longer run the hotel she built on the east side of 15th Street between Duane and Exchange. The hotel was sold to George W. Hume who in turn sold it for $5,500 to the Catholic Sisters of Charity of Providence who had been urged to operate a hospital here.

Three members of the order arrived in Astoria for duty. They were Sister Joseph of Arimathea, superior; Sister James Kisal and Sister Mary Alexander. Among their earliest patients were a dying Native American and his sick two-year-old child who died two months later. The sisters were able to keep the hospital in operation by asking fishermen each year to donate money.

As the population of the county grew, the twenty-five bed hospital needed to grow. In 1895 an annex was built as a wing on the east side of the hospital giving room for 40 more beds. Then in 1905, a four-story frame building, 124 by 45 feet with a 70 by 35 foot wing was built on 16th between Duane and Exchange. The hospital was nearly lost in the fire of 1922, saved by volunteers who stayed on the roof spraying the building with hoses to extinguish the sparks.

In 1931, a new brick building was completed with room for fifty-four beds at a cost of $300,000. During excavation for the new building, a row of charred logs, upright in the ground, was found, believed to be the remains of the stockade of (Fort) Astoria.

The hospital closed in 1970 having served 47,120 patients. That was not the only way in which the hospital served the public. From 1909 to 1948 a nursing school operated at the hospital, graduating 180 nurses.

*Abstracted from "*Ninety Years of Service to Sick and Poor Will End March*" by Fred Andrus in the February 16, 1970 issue of the* Daily Astorian. ✠

CCHS image # 233.740

St. Mary's Hospital can be seen in the background on the corner of Duane and 15th Streets. The building with the Cupola is Shively School (built 1883) on the south side of Exchange Street, just east of 16th Street. This fire hose cart race took place on Commerical Street.

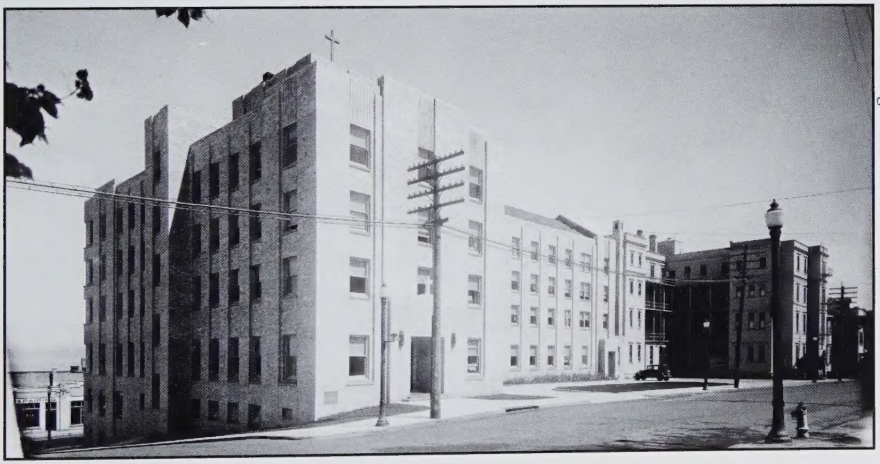
CCHS image # 9223.565

Above: View of St. Mary's Hospital on 16th St. as it appeared when built in 1905.
Below: The back side of St. Mary's seen from the corner of 15th and Exchange Streets.

CCHS image #709.565

CCHS image #6718.565

By the 1970s, the peaked roofs had been removed, altering the appearance of the building. Construction began in 1931 for a brick building on the west end of the block on the same location as the original hospital.



CCHS image # 2040.565

CCHS acc#09.057y

The Milk Drivers and Dairy Employees Union local 522 supplied milk to schools through the Clatsop County Health Department, beginning in 1939, distributing as many as 3,000 half pints a week. Can you identify any of these children?

CCHS acc#09.057y

Editor's Notes

Life on Clatsop

Inez Elizabeth (Stafford) Hanson passed away November 1, 2009 at the age of 105. She was the author of the recently reprinted book *Life on Clatsop* that contains a wealth of stories about the pioneers who lived on Clatsop Plains. The book is available for purchase at the Heritage Museum. Call 503-325-2203 for information.

Immigrant Interviews

Maria Brooks recently donated a copy of the book *New Land, New Lives: Scandinavian Immigrants to the Pacific Northwest* by Janet E. Rasmussen, printed by the University of Washington Press in 1994. Though the book focuses on residents of Seattle and Tacoma, it also contains reminiscences of some local people, including Ina Huntos Silverberg, Esther Wiirre Rinne, John Kuivala, Hannah Hekkala Sippala, and Hilma Tolonen Salvon. The book can be read at the Heritage Museum during Archive open hours Tuesdays through Fridays, from 11 to 4 in the winter. The book was published without an index, but Carol Moore, CCHS volunteer for many years, has created one for it.

Looking for classmates

The Astoria High School graduating class of 1960 is planning their Gala 50th Class Reunion on the weekend of August 14, 2010 and is looking for the following classmates:

Janet Armstrong
Jack Beeler
Joan Bird
Sharon Brandenburg
Donna Bransky
Bob Coulombe
George Ducich
Janice Egan
Barney Hughes
JoAnne Iverson
Winnifred Kindred
Barbara LaMarr
Jack Martin
Margaret Matthews
Fred Mund
Janice Orwick
Pat Ostrich
Mike Peters
Connie Piland
Chuck Poysky
Dana Scott
Jim Seigmund
Mike Seppala
Richard Smith
Lloyd Smith-Luzzani
Nancy Stenblom
Francis Steihl
Jerri Stone
Carl Tolonen
Karen Welch
Janet Backlund

Please call or e-mail any information to:
Susan Morrow Malen, 503-292-1141, LSMalen@comcast.net
Jean Ostrom Montgomery, 503-667-7450, Montyjf@gmail.com

CCHS acc#09.057y

Dr. E. E. Berg of the Clatsop County Health Department gives health tests to area children, ca. 1942 in the Flavel House.

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